

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SIG-01 DHA-02 IO-13 ORM-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 EB-08 MC-02 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 DPW-01 /097 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:DTKENNEY:LGR

APPROVED BY EA-ROAKLEY

-----170344Z 073049 /72-62

O 170100Z MAR 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 059033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SHUM, ID, PT, AS

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN TIMOR

REF: A. JAKARTA 3166; B. JAKARTA 3334.

1. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT HAS KEPT INDONESIAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON CLOSELY INFORMED OF CONGRESSIONAL DEVELOPMENTS
ON TIMOR ATROCITY ALLEGATIONS, WE BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BRING
GOI UP TO DATE ON SITUATION AND ON OUR PLANS WITH REGARD
TO THE VARIOUS CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS. WE SUGGEST
AMBASSADOR SEEK MEETING AT APPROPRIATE GOI LEVEL FOR
EXCHANGE ON THIS ISSUE, DRAWING ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS.

2. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY WILL TESTIFY MARCH 17
BEFORE HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRED BY CONGRESSMAN WOLFF.
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DEPT HAS ALSO ACCEPTED INVITATION TO APPEAR BEFORE A JOINT
FRASER-WOLFF HIRC SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING ON MARCH 23 WHICH
WILL FEATURE TESTIMONY BY JAMES DUNN. WE EXPECT AT THOSE
HEARINGS TO RECEIVE EXTENSIVE QUESTIONING ON PAST AND
CURRENT USE BY GOI OF US-FURNISHED MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN
EAST TIMOR, AND WHETHER SUCH USE CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION
OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AND ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT OF

1976. IN RESPONSE DEPARTMENT PLANS TO INFORM SUBCOMMITTEE
IN GENERAL TERMS OF THE VARIOUS STEPS TAKEN BY USG TO SEE

THAT GOI WAS INFORMED OF RELEVANT U.S. LEGISLATION AND OF
THE TEMPORARY DELAY OF DELIVERY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO
INDONESIA FROM DECEMBER 1975 TO JUNE 1976 WHILE WE REVIEWED
THE SITUATION CREATED BY INDONESIA'S MOVE INTO TIMOR.

3. WE ALSO ANTICIPATE QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER U.S.
RECOGNIZES INDONESIAN SOVEREIGNTY OVER EAST TIMOR. DEPT
PLANS TO RESPOND THAT U.S. GOVERNMENT DID NOT QUESTION
INDONESIAN INCORPORATION OF EAST TIMOR ON JULY 17, 1976,
AND THAT THE USG ACCEPTS THE EXISTING SITUATION.

4. WITH REGARD TO DUNN'S ALLEGATIONS THAT 100,000
TIMORESE HAVE BEEN KILLED BY INDONESIAN TROOPS, WE INTEND
TO DRAW HEAVILY ON EMBASSY REPORTING (INCLUDING REFTEL A).
DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE POSITION THAT WHILE OUR INFORMATION
ON THE SITUATION IN EAST TIMOR IS LIMITED, WE BELIEVE
CITED CASUALTY FIGURES ARE GREATLY EXAGGERATED, THAT
100,000 ESTIMATE HAS NOT BEEN SUBSTANTIATED BY ANY
RELIABLE OBSERVERS OF WHOM WE HAVE KNOWLEDGE, AND THAT
BULK OF ANY CASUALTIES OCCURRED DURING PERIOD PRIOR TO
MARCH 1976.

5. DEPTOFFS DISCUSSED MARCH 15 WITH JOHN SALZBERG OF
CONGRESSMAN FRASER'S STAFF AND DON DUSKIE OF CONGRESSMAN
WOLFF'S STAFF OUR ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT SITUATION IN TIMOR
INCLUDING ATROCITY ALLEGATIONS. THEY RAISED INDONESIAN
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CHARGE'S LETTER COMPLAINING OVER LACK OF INVITATION TO
INDONESIANS. SALZBERG INDICATED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE
POSSIBLE TO POSTPONE HEARINGS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 23 BUT
THAT IN RESPONSE TO INDONESIAN LETTER INVITATION HAD
DEFINITELY BEEN EXTENDED TO GOI TO PROVIDE ONE REPEAT ONE
WITNESS TO TESTIFY ALONG WITH DUNN.

6. AS A RESULT OF DISCUSSIONS WITH SALZBERG AND DUSKIE,
DEPT HAD ALREADY INFORMED INDONESIAN EMBASSY OF SEVERAL
QUESTIONS THAT WE ANTICIPATE WILL COME UP AT MARCH 23
HEARINGS AND TO WHICH THE INDONESIAN WITNESSES WILL WANT
TO BE PREPARED TO RESPOND. FOR EXAMPLE, SALZBERG AND
DUSKIE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER INDONESIANS CURRENTLY HELD
ANY FRETELIN PRISONERS IN TIMOR, WHETHER THE ICRC OR
JOURNALISTS WOULD BE PERMITTED TO VISIT EAST TIMOR AND
WHETHER EAST TIMOR WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE MAY 2
ELECTIONS? THERE WAS ALSO DISCUSSION OF REPORTS THAT
INDONESIAN ARMY HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY HARSH ON CHINESE
RESIDENTS OF TIMOR.

7. IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOI, AMBASSADOR SHOULD MAKE THE POINT THAT U.S. HAS NOTED AND APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE LEVEL OF COMBAT AND TO MINIMIZE THE USE OF U.S. EQUIPMENT IN EAST TIMOR. WE STRONGLY HOPE THAT THE GOI WILL CONTINUE THOSE EFFORTS. ALSO, SINCE THE QUESTION OF AN ICRC PRESENCE IN EAST TIMOR HAS AGAIN BEEN RAISED, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD CONFIRM OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT GOI HAS IN FACT AGREED TO LET ICRC RETURN, REQUIRING ONLY THAT SUCH ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE DIRECTLY BETWEEN ICRC AND INDONESIAN RED CROSS.

8. FINALLY WE SUGGEST THAT YOU REPEAT IN YOUR CONVERSATION WITH GOI THE POINT MADE BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AT MARCH 15 RECEPTION FOR EA AMBASSADORS TO INDONESIAN CHARGE ZAHAR THAT U.S. VALUES OUR RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA AND PLANS

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TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO MAINTAIN THE STRONG TIES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. OAKLEY WILL TAKE SAME POSITION BEFORE WOLFF SUBCOMMITTEE MARCH 17.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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